UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/082,127	05/20/1998	TAKENORI IDEHARA	05058/70001	2348

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/082,127	IDEHARA, TAKENORI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	King Y. Poon	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>30 July 2002 and 12 September 2002</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>9-22, 25-27, 33-35, 37-41 and 56-59</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>9-22, 25-27, 33-35, 37-41 and 56-59</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☐	Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4)☐	Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2)☐	Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5)☐	Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3)☐	Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6)☐	Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37

CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for

continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been

timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR

1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/12/2002 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United
> States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who
> has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention
> thereof by the applicant for patent.

3.   Claims 9, 11, 12, 19-22, 25, 27, 33, 37-41, 56, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blair et al (U.S. Patent # 5,809,265).

       Regarding claims 9, 25, 33, and 37: Blair teaches a machine readable medium (memory of

workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, line 33-38) for

selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (plotters,

faxes, modems, column 3, lines 50-51) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program

comprising: a first display step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of

categories (column 2, lines 54-55, set of device, column 5, lines 19-21) with different functions,

(e.g., facsimile, modem, etc., column 2, lines 54-55) and displaying the categories (GUI, column

2, lines 40-67) on a display as items to be selected; a second display step (displaying the set of

devices that are connected by a line, column 5, lines 15-25) for displaying on the display as items

to be selected only the input-output apparatuses (102, fig. 6, column 5, lines 1-40) classified in a

category selected by a user (column 5, line 30), and an apparatus specifying means (mouse,

column 5, lines 1-10) for selecting a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the

apparatus displaying step and for specifying as an input-output destination the selected

input-output apparatus (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40)

Regarding claim 11: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a

sub-step for displaying on said display a map of the network (fig. 6) with symbolic marks (LJ2,

fig.6) of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an

installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 12: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further includes a step for

setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by one of the

symbolic marks as selected by a user (column 5, lines 20-35).

Regarding claims 19, 27: Blair et al. teach a machine readable medium (memory of

workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38, and

column 5, lines 35-36) for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image

forming apparatuses (printers, 102, 104, column 3, lines 45-50) connected to a network, (column

3, line 48) the program comprising: a select step for selecting as an output destination one of the

image forming apparatuses designated by a user; (user select LJ2, column 5, line 24) a judgment

step for judging whether or not the image forming apparatus set at the select step is capable of

carrying out printing; (column 5, lines 34-38) and a display step (fig. 7) for displaying on a

display, when an outcome of the judgement formed at the judgement step indicates that the image

forming apparatus set at the select step is not capable of carrying out printing, (fig. 7, column 5,

lines 15-42), installation locations of the image forming apparatuses (additional active

connections, column 5, lines 35-40) which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a

substitute (column 5, lines 34-38) for the image forming apparatus set at the select step.

Regarding claim 20: Blair et al. teach wherein the display step further includes a sub-step

for displaying on the display a map of the network (fig. 7) with symbolic marks (LJ2, 4Si, fig. 7)

of the image forming apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an

installation location of respective ones of the image forming apparatus.

Regarding claim 21: Blair et al. teach a step for setting as an output destination an image

forming apparatus represented by a corresponding one of the symbolic marks (LJ2, fig. 7)

selected by the user (abstract, column 5, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 22: Blair et al. teach a sub-step for displaying on the display characters

(LJ2, fig. 7) describing the name of each of said image forming apparatuses and characters

describing a location (foothill 2/2, fig. 7) at which each of the image forming apparatuses is installed.

Regarding claims 38 and 41: Blair et al. teach a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, line 33-38) for a network system (column 3, line 48) connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses, (fig. 1) the program comprises: a user name (118, column 4, lines 54-67) displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users (the name of the system located in foothill 2/2) regularly using the network system; (118 regularly using the network for communication), a user name selecting step for selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step; (fig. 5, column 4, lines 45-67) an input-output apparatus displaying step (fig. 6) for displaying as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses (LJ2, 4si, fig. 6) associated with one of the users (foothill 2/2, fig. 6) with the name thereof selected at user name selecting step; and an input-output apparatus selecting step for selecting as an input-output destination a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the input-output apparatus displaying step (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40).

Regarding claim 39: Blair et al. teach wherein the user name displaying step further includes a sub-step for displaying the names of the (foothill 2/2, fig. 6) users on a layout diagram along with icons (LJ2, 4si, fig. 6) each representing one of the input-output apparatuses.

Regarding claim 40: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for creating (column 6, lines 7-21) a plurality of images (LJ2, fig. 7) each showing installation

locations of the input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels (fig. 5, fig. 6) forming a

hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) and storing the hierarchical structure; (column 6,

lines 7-20); a step for displaying a high level image (fig. 5) on one of the layers at a high level in,

the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image shows items of selection; (column 4, lines

60-63) and a step for displaying a low level image (fig. 6) on another one of the layers at a level

immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) wherein

the low level image (fig. 6) is determined by an item selected (118, column 4, line 62) from the

items of selection shown in the high level image.

Regarding claim 56: Blair et al. teach a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38) that can be

read by a computer (column 4, line 36) which has a computer execute the steps of: selecting a

first printer, (LJ2, column 6, line 24) as an output destination of image data, from among a

plurality of printers (fig. 6) connected to a network; (column 5, line 2) determining whether the

first printer is currently available or not; (column 5, lines 35-38) and selecting a second printer

(secondary device, column 5, line 37) automatically, (column 5, lines 5-10, column 16, lines 1-8)

from a plurality of printers (fig. 6) connected to a network, (column 5, line 2) as a substitute

output apparatus (column 5, lines 25-34) in response to the determination that the first printer is

not available (column 5, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 58: Blair et al. teach wherein the second printer selected as a substitute

output apparatus exceeds the first printer in function (see higher speed printer, column 5, lines 25-

30).

Regarding claim 59: Blair et al. teach wherein the second printer selected as a substitute

output apparatus exceeds the first printer in printing speed (see higher speed printer, column 5,

lines 25-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 14, 16, 17, 26, 34, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Blair at al. (U.S. Patent 5,809,265) in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure

Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993).

Regarding claims 14, 26: Blair et al. Teaches a machine readable medium (memory of

workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38) for

selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (printers

102, 104, column 3, lines 45-50) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program

comprising: a first display step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of

categories (column 2, lines 53-55, set of devices, column 5, lines 20-25) and for displaying on a

display as items of selection the categories; (fig. 4, fig. 5), and a second display step (fig. 6) for

displaying on the display as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses (displaying set of

devices connected by line 121, column 5, lines 20-25) in a category corresponding to thus

displayed categories which is selected by a user.

Blair does not teach that the displayed categories are grouped by different pieces of user

identification information (code).

Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993),

teaches to classify group of printers (lines 22-23) into a plurality of categories (nearest available

printers according to location of users, lines 17-23) with different pieces of user identification

information (user's terminal ID, line 22)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Blair's display method to include: displayed

categories are grouped by different pieces of user identification information.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Blair's display method by the teaching of Jackson et al.

(IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) because of the following

reason(s): it would have allowed a user to fully automate printer selections for selecting the best

fit printer, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B,

September 1993) at lines 28-31; and (b) it would have provided users with feedback regarding the

availability of printers to print the selected user identification information, as taught by Jackson et

al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-7.

Regarding claim 16: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of the network (fig. 6) with symbolic marks (LJ2, fig.6) of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 17: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further includes a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by one of the symbolic marks as selected by a user (column 5, lines 20-35).

Regarding claim 34: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for displaying on the display a layout (fig. 7) image representing locations of the input-output apparatuses; (LJ2, fig. 7) a step for displaying icons (LJ2, fig. 7) as items of selection over the layout image displayed on the display, each icon representing one of the input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses; (fig. 7) and a step for selecting as an input-output destination one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40).

Regarding claim 35: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for creating (column 6, lines 7-21) a plurality of images (LJ2, fig. 7) each showing installation locations of the input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels (fig. 5, fig. 6) forming a hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) and storing the hierarchical structure; (column 6, lines 7-20); a step for displaying a high level image (fig. 5) on one of the layers at a high level in, the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image shows items of selection; (column 4, lines

60-63) and a step for displaying a low level image (fig. 6) on another one of the layers at a level immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) wherein the low level image (fig. 6) is determined by an item selected (118, column 4, line 62) from the items of selection shown in the high level image.

6.   Claims 10, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. as applied to claims 9, 11 above, and further in view of Sugiyama et al (U.S. Patent # 5,996,029).

Regarding claim 10: Blair does not teach wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's displaying method to include: wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's displaying method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers

are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is

not available to print.

Regarding claim 13: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a

sub-step for displaying on the display at locations in close proximity to each one of the symbolic

marks representing the input output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Blair et al does not teach displaying information indicating whether or not each of the

input-output apparatuses is usable.

Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each

respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's display method to include: displaying

information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Blair et al's display method by the teaching of Sugiyama

because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers

are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is

not available to print.

7.   Claims 15, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al.

in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)

as applied to claims 14, 16 above, and further in view of Sugiyama et al (U.S. Patent # 5,996,029).

Regarding claim 15: Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) do not teach wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method to include: wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is not available to print.

Regarding claim 18: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a

sub-step for displaying on the display at locations in close proximity to each one of the symbolic

marks representing the input output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No.

09B, September 1993) do not teach displaying information indicating whether or not each of the

input-output apparatuses is usable.

Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each

respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical

Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method to include: displaying

information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical

Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method by the teaching of

Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing

which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a

printer that is not available to print.

8.   Claims 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair at al.

(U.S. Patent 5,809,265) as applied to claim 56 above and further in view of Jackson et al. (IBM

Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993).

Regarding claim 57: Blair et al. do not teach wherein the second printer selected is

located in closest proximity to the user.

Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)

teach to select a printer that is located in closest proximity to the user for printing (lines 15-27)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's output apparatus selection method to

include: the second printer selected is located in closest proximity to the user.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Blair et al's output apparatus selection method by the

teaching of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September

1993) because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have prevented users from selecting an

incorrect printer located far away and thereby, preventing the creation of a barrier and

inconvenience to the user, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol.

36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-14; and (b) it would have allowed a user to select the

best capable printer as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No.

09B, September 1993) at lines 28-31.

Response to Arguments

9.   Applicant's arguments filed 2/20/2002 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument that Blair does not teach displaying the location of

image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for a

selected image forming apparatus set at a select step in case judgement formed at a judgement

step indicates that the selected image forming apparatus is not capable of carrying out printing,

has been considered.

In reply: Blair column 4, lines 20-40, and column 5, lines 15-40 teaches Saber LAN

workstation software together with other software are used to implement displaying locations of

image forming apparatuses. The image forming apparatus includes the image forming apparatus

that is capable of carrying out printing (second device, column 5, lines 37) to serve as a substitute

for a selected image forming apparatus set at a selected step (a print job from the default printer,

column 5, line 36, i.e., the default printer is originally selected to print the print job) in case

judgement (the image forming apparatus is in used or not requires judgement) indicates the

selected image forming apparatus is not capable of carries out printing. (Default printer is in use,

column 5, lines 37-38, i.e., the image forming apparatus is not capable of printing the print job at

the moment the default printer is in use, and the user takes the print job and put in the second

device) Therefore, in Blair, at the time the judgement step indicates that the selected image

forming apparatus is not capable of carrying out printing, the location of image forming

apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for a selected image

forming apparatus is being displayed.

With respect to applicant's argument that Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge, in Blair, is not a user,

has been considered.

In reply: Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge is a name. The system located at Foothill Sierra 2

Bridge is using a network system for communication. (Column 1, and column 2, lines 40-45,

Blair) Therefore, Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge is a name representing a group of users using the

network system for communications.

With respect to applicant's argument that Blair does not teach displaying as items of

selection the name of users regularly using the network system and selecting one of the names

displayed at the user name displaying step, has been considered.

In reply: Blair et al. teach a user name (118, column 4, lines 54-67) displaying step for

displaying as items of selection the names of users (the name of the system located in foothill 2/2)

regularly using the network system; (118 regularly using the network for communication), and a

user name selecting step for selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step.

(Fig. 5, column 4, lines 45-67)

With respect to applicant's argument that Blair does not teach a second printer is

automatically selected, has been considered.

In reply: Column 5, lines 5-40, Blair, teaches to have virtual connections between at least

two printers (e.g., LJ2 and 4si, with LJ2 being the default printer). This virtual connection would

be automatically reinitialized even if the user exits the network system, and the 4si (secondary

device) would be used to print a print job if the LJ2 is in used. With the virtual connection being

automatically reinitialized, the 4si would be used (not any other printer without the virtual

connection) to print a print job whenever LJ2 is in used. Therefore, 4si is automatically selected

by reinitialized the virtual connection of 4si.

With respect to applicant's argument that Blair does not teach classifying input-output

apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on

a display as items to be selected, has been considered.

In reply: Blair teaches a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3,

line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, line 33-38) for selecting a desired

input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (plotters, faxes, modems,

column 3, lines 50-51) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program comprising: a

first display step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (column

2, lines 54-55, set of device, column 5, lines 19-21) with different functions, (e.g., facsimile,

modem, etc., column 2, lines 54-55) and displaying the categories (GUI, column 2, lines 40-67)

on a display as items to be selected

With respect to applicant's argument that Jackson does not teach displaying the input

output apparatus into categories with different user identification on a display as items to be
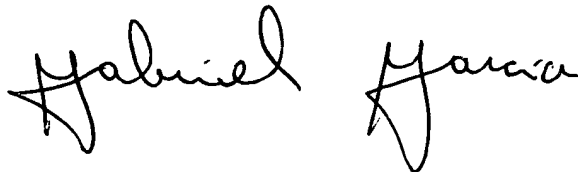
selected, has been considered.

In reply: Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993), teaches to use a display (User Interface, line 17) for displaying to users the group of nearest available printers (lines 24) based on users ID (line 20-21) such that the user would select a printer for printing.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892 or to Supervisor Mr. David Moore whose phone number is (703) 308-7452.

December 13, 2002

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER